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## Book Reviews

### A COPTIC PSALTER

The publication of the Freer Manuscripts is progressing apace. The Coptic material has been placed in the able hands of Mr. William H. Worrell of Hartford Theological Seminary, who now presents us with a first volume of texts<sup>1</sup> to be followed shortly by another, apparently much smaller, one, which will present all that remains: "a part of a homily on the Virgin" and "a magical text."

The present volume, besides disposing of a considerable amount of illegible and relatively unimportant material, publishes in full the text of Manuscript No. 1, "a large portion of the Psalter"; Fragment No. 1, "a small portion of the Psalter . . ."; and Fragment No. 9, "a small portion of Job." Representative pages of each of these are exhibited in the usual excellent photogravures, which characterize the publication of the Freer material. A photogravure presents one side of a double leaf, badly torn and wrinkled, from Fragment No. 2, "a small portion of Matthew," whose text is amply made public besides in Note 1, page ix. The few words, deciphered on Fragment No. 8, are printed on page ix; would it be possible to satisfy the curious by a photographic representation of "a rude portrait of Christ (?)," which is said to be found on this fragment? None of the texts published contains anything textually out of the ordinary. The introduction is accordingly brief, though its careful tabulations, most of them very useful, tell a story of much painstaking labor. Seven sections deal, in order, with the Coptic material in the Freer collection, the "appearance and make-up of the collection," paleography, orthography, textual affinities, "plan of this edition," and "the reproduction of the text." The mystery of the place whence these Freer materials come is not yet lifted, wherefore expert judgment cannot yet fully test the soundness of Professor Sanders' hypothetical "Monastery of the Vinedresser," which is all that appears in this as in previous introductions. The separation of the mangled leaves was accomplished with his usual skill by Professor Sanders. The external appearance of this volume, as of all previous ones which have appeared on the Freer material, speaks volumes for the unstinted liberality of Mr. Freer. Perhaps, if it be possible at all, this generosity will furnish us in Part II with a photograph of the Christ-portrait above mentioned.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Coptic Psalter in the Freer Collection.* By William H. Worrell. The Coptic Manuscripts in the Freer Collection, Part I. University of Michigan Studies. *Humanistic Series*, Vol. X. New York: Macmillan, 1916. Pp. xxvi+112, and 6 plates. \$2.00 net.